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Not Entirely Platonic: Variations on a Confession

a play in one act

by Kitt Lavoie

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Synopsis

A young man falls in love with his longtime girlfriend's childhood best friend. In a series of scenes, we see, along with the man, what would have happened had he confessed his attraction to his girlfriend at different times in the relationship under different circumstances – as he asks the question: is there any way this can turn out well?

Playwright Bio

Kitt Lavoie is author of seventeen produced plays and musical books, including *Twice Rather Perish* and *The Median Line* (both winners of the Herbert J. Robinson Award for Dramatic Writing). His new full-length play, *Makes Three*, recently had its first public reading with The CRY HAVOC Company, which is also currently developing his newest full-length play, *A Writer for Children*. He has directed more than seventy-five shows in New York City, including the original productions of more than thirty plays. Kitt also regularly assists stage and television director Lonny Price, with whom he has recently worked on the Roundabout Theatre's Broadway revival of *110 in the Shade* (starring Audra McDonald and John Cullum), the American Premiere of *Night Season* by Rebecca Liefkowitz, and the PBS filming of the Tony Award winning John Doyle revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. Kitt has also appeared onstage as Macbeth, Benedick (*Much Ado...*), and Roy Cohn *Angels in America*, among others, and has designed sets/lights for more than sixty shows. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the Actors Studio Drama School, is a founding member of the Professional Playwrights Workshop at the Players Club and is a Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC). Kitt is Artistic Director and co-founder of The CRY HAVOC Company (www.cryhavocnyc.com). www.kittlavoie.com

Character Breakdown

<i>Scott Mathis</i>	seen from ages 21-25
<i>Sasha Taylor</i>	his girlfriend, seen from ages 21-25
<i>Alexis Katzon</i>	her (later their) best friend, seen from ages 21-25

Setting

Sasha's dorm room, Scott's dorm room, Alexis' apartment, a hospital, a small downtown New York Theater, Scott and Sasha's Apartment, The Tinker Tavern

Time Period

Present day, and the four years leading up to it.

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***Not Entirely Platonic:
Variations on a Confession***

by
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**Scene 1
Sasha's dorm room**

Lights rise on Sasha, a beautiful, bright-eyed young woman of 21, Alexis, a somewhat quirky, very cute, if not beautiful girl of the same age, and Scott, a well put-together 21-year-old young man. Alexis is wiping away tears as Scott holds her gently to him.

Scott You gonna be okay?

Alexis Yeah. Thank you guys.

Sasha Please.

Scott Anytime you need a shoulder...

Sasha You're going to be better off.

Alexis He was a prick, wasn't he?

Scott Like I've been saying. You'll listen to me next time?

Alexis Prob'ly not. I'm no good that way.

Sasha C'mere. *(she opens her arms. Alexis crosses and hugs her.)* It's so good having you around now, Lex. I've missed tending to you after a break-up.

Alexis Me, too. And you didn't even steal this one from me.

Sasha I never stole--

Alexis No, but you were the reason they lost interest.

Sasha Oh, please. *(to Scott)* Is she not beautiful?

Scott And charming, both.

Alexis Thanks, guys. Well, back to the fight.

Alexis goes to the front door. Scott and Sasha follow. Sasha hugs her goodbye.

Sasha Lunch tomorrow? Noonish?

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Alexis Noon-thirty.

Sasha Be there.

Alexis hugs Scott goodbye.

Alexis Thanks again, Scotty.

Scott Anytime. Really.

Alexis (*heading for the door, to Scott*) You write me that dream role yet?

Scott I keep telling you: novels, not plays.

Alexis And I keep asking. Someday. Love you guys.

Sasha You, too.

Scott 'Night.

Alexis exits.

Sasha God, I've missed her.

Scott She's great.

Sasha I'm so glad you get along.

Scott I love her. She's fantastic.

Sasha She is. So-- thoughts on what to do with ourselves for the rest of the evening?

Scott Nothing specific.

Sasha begins kissing his neck.

Sasha I have a thought.

Sasha begins pawing playfully at Scott. They begin to kiss. After a moment, Scott pulls away.

Scott Look, I-- We, we can get right back to that. But... we've never really talked about our... status.

Sasha Status?

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Scott Yeah. I mean, we haven't been seeing other people. But is that because we can't or because we just don't?

Sasha Who?

Scott Who who?

Sasha No one asks a question about the flexibility of a relationship unless they plan on exercising it.

Scott No, no, I just want to know. We've been spending a lot of time together but we never made a decision, so I thought... I'd just like to know.

Sasha What would you like?

Scott I just don't want to rush things.

Sasha Fine.

Scott Great. *(beat)* It's nothing. It's just after hearing Alexis talk about how things went bad with Tad--

Sasha Ah. I see. You stay away from her.

Scott Who?

Sasha She just broke up with somebody. Stay away.

Scott I'm not planning on going near anyone. Just you.

Sasha So Alex's being suddenly free has nothing to do with you're sudden interest in our "status?"

Scott Ah... I like her. She's a friend. And I guess, yeah, I have some feelings for her that are not entirely platonic. But I wouldn't do anything about it.

Sasha Yeah, I'm not worried about that. She wouldn't have you.

Sasha begins playfully kissing Scott's neck.

Scott Why not?

Sasha Because when Doug Spitz broke up with her in the eighth grade, he asked me out a week later. And I said no. *(she kisses his neck some more)* Shall we go to bed?

Scott No. I'm heading home, I think.

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Scott rises.

Sasha You sure?

Scott Yeah. I'll see you tomorrow. Have a good night.

Scott exits.

Sasha Sure.

Lights fade to a single spot, into which Scott steps.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. (*Scott turns to the audience*) I take it back. (*Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott*) Four months later. My dorm room.

The lights fade to black.

Scene 2

Scott's dorm room, four months later, in a universe where the previous scene never occurred.

In the darkness, contented post-coital moans are heard.

Scott Mmmm. That was fantastic.

Sasha Uh-huh.

Scott You're getting so good at that.

Sasha Years of practice.

Scott Great... Mmmm... 'Night.

Sasha I love you.

Scott I love you, too.

Sasha 'Night.

Scott (*drifting to sleep*) Mmmm. 'Night, Lex.

A beat.

Sasha What did you just say?

Scott Hmm?

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Sasha Did you just call me Alex?

Scott No.

Sasha Then what did you call me?

Scott Sasha. I said “good night, Sasha.” (*a beat*) Hey, where are you going?

Sasha Home.

Scott Come back here.

Sasha Where the... where are my fucking pants?

Scott Hold on, they’re--

The lights snap on. Scott stands by the light switch wrapped in a sheet. Sasha stands in her shirt and underwear. She spots her pants crumpled on the floor. She picks them up and starts to put them on.

Scott Hey, hey. Come on.

Sasha Toss me my shoes.

Scott grabs her pants from her.

Scott Come on. Calm down. We can talk about this.

Sasha Give me my pants.

Scott Hey, come on. Tommy is going to be back in town tomorrow night. I’m sorry.

Sasha Would you be sorry if this wasn’t the last night you had the place to yourself?

Scott Yes.

Sasha I don’t think I believe you.

Scott Look, if I said that, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to.

Sasha But that makes it worse. If you didn’t mean to. If it just “slipped out.”

Scott I don’t want to fight. I’ve been looking forward to tonight for a month. I don’t want you to go. Please.

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They look at each other for a moment.

Sasha Did you set the alarm?

Scott Yes.

Sasha begins to pull her shirt over her head as Scott flips the lights back out.

Scott Get in here. It's chilly.

Sasha Then put something on.

Scott I'd rather cuddle.

Sasha Here you go.

We hear them kiss.

Sasha Good night. I love you.

Scott I love you, too. *Sasha.*

A moment of silence passes.

Scott Did you read Ann Landers yesterday?

Sasha What?

Scott Ann Landers, yesterday. Did you read it?

Sasha No.

Scott Hmm. It was interesting, that's all.

A moment of silence passes.

Scott This lady wrote in and she said that she was divorced and got remarried but the first husband it still around because of the kids and stuff and she thinks she still loves him and does that mean that she doesn't love her husband. So Tom and I were talking and stuff and do you think that it's possible that one person could be in love with two people at once. He says yes, but I don't know. What do you think?

A beat.

Sasha You love her?

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Scott What? Who?

Sasha Scott, don't.

Scott What?

Sasha I'm going.

Scott No, wait, just tell me what you're talking about.

Sasha Alex. Do you have a thing for Alex?

Scott No. Why would you ask me that?

Sasha Because you want me to ask.

Scott No. No, not at all. Alex, I mean, she's great. She'd make a great girlfriend for somebody. Cute, funny. Talented. A Celts fan. But I've got you. *(A beat)* I mean, do I like her? Would I ever date her? If I was single and just met her. Yeah, probably. *(A beat)* Do I have feelings for her? Yes. But do I... I mean, are they entirely platonic? No. No.

We hear Sasha rise from the bed

Scott Hey, wait. I was just talking. Come back.

We hear Sasha dressing.

Scott I love you. I want you to stay. I didn't mean anything by it. I just wanted to be honest with you.

Sasha crosses to the door and opens it, allowing light in from the hall. She exits, closing the door behind her. We hear something slam against the wall.

Scott Shit.

A single spot rises on Scott.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. *(Scott turns to the audience)* I take it back. *(Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott)* One year later. Alexis' apartment.

The lights fade to black, then rise on...

Scene 3

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Alexis' apartment, one year later, in a universe where the previous scenes never occurred.

Scott, Sasha, and Alex are howling with laughter. They each clutch a nearly empty 40 ounce bottle of malt liquor. They are hammered. Scott sits with a big box of crayons on his lap. They each have three crayons in their hand as the lights rise.

Scott Okay, okay, okay. What've you got?

Sasha Um... I, uh...

Scott Okay, I'll go first. *(he reads from his three crayons)* I have... Jade green. Turquoise. And... Oh, I'm saving this one.

Alexis What've you got?

Scott No way, I'm saving this one for last. You go.

Alexis Okay. Uh, magenta.

Scott Oooh. Good one.

Alexis Golden yellow.

Scott Mmmm...

Alexis And, check it out, raspberry.

Scott Shit, that's a good one. You made out.

Sasha My turn.

Alexis Hit us.

Sasha Bronze yellow. Peach. And salmon.

Alexis Nice!

Scott A fruit, a fish, and an era. Not bad.

Alexis An era?

Scott Yeah, you know, the Bronze Era.

Sasha Age.

Scott Right, the Bronze Age. What I said.

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Alexis I see.

Scott I understand why you wouldn't get it. You know, you have to be *learned*. That's why we keep Sasha around. She knows stuff.

Alexis Right. Now, what have you got?

Sasha Yeah.

Scott Sure you're ready?

Sasha Yes. And it'd better be good.

Scott 'Cause, this is like the best name for a color I have ever heard.

Alexis Just fuckin' tell us.

Scott Okay. Check it out... "Cool Gray." Like, it's cool, y'see?

Alexis I'm with you.

Scott And it's cool looking, too. (*he sticks his nose in the box of crayons and takes a big sniff*) Ahhh! The smell of youth!

The girls cackle. Scott rises and begins staggering around the room.

Alexis I still think Sash wins, though. The fish.

Scott And the *era*.

Sasha Thank you. Thank you. I am very proud.

Scott stumbles upon an empty wooden box attached to the wall.

Scott What the fuck is this?

Alexis I don't know. It's always been there.

Scott sticks his head into the box and calls.

Scott Hello! (*echoing*) Hello, hello, hello...

Sasha I think it was probably for a fire extinguisher.

Alexis You think?

Scott emerges from the box.

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Scott You know, there was a time when none of this was here. None of it. If we were here right now like five hundred years ago, none of this would be here. We'd be in a tree. With the squirrels. But only one day these guys came and they tore down the trees and they put up a building. And the squirrels have to live somewhere else now, but now Katz gets to live here. So it's okay. And one day when they were building there were lots of men and they were each doing their own thing. A guy was doing the molding and a guy was painting and a guy was... putting in those windows. But then there was this guy. And he said, "You know, I'm going to put a box on the wall." And all the other guys laughed and they pointed their fingers, but he just said, "You'll see. Some day some guy will get really fucked up and he'll stick his head in this box" and now I've done it and he's a genius and I own all his records.

The three of them laugh. They settle down and there is a moment of bemused silence. Then...

Alexis Truth or dare?

Sasha What?

Alexis Truth or dare?

Sasha No way. I'm not playing.

Alexis Oh, come on! We used to play for hours.

Sasha At slumber parties.

Alexis Like we're not all going to fall asleep here.

Sasha Well, I've already seen both of you naked. And I'm not going out on the porch in my underwear in this neighborhood, thank you.

Alexis (to Scott) Truth or dare?

Scott looks to Sasha. She shrugs "go ahead."

Scott Dare.

Alexis All right... stick your finger in your nose.

Scott does so bemusedly.

Alexis Somehow that wasn't as exciting as when we were in the ninth grade.

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Sasha Well, he didn't say, "Eww!" and beg you not to make him. Guys don't have those kind of hang ups.

Scott Hell, we live for chances to pick our nose in front of chicks. A chick pick.

Alexis Or a chick flick.

Scott Yeah, that was the joke. Like "pick" sounds like "flick"--

Alexis No, I mean, like, if you flicked the-- never mind. Sash, your turn.

Sasha I'm out. I'll just observe.

Alexis And referee.

Sasha Right.

Alexis Fair enough. Scott?

Scott Truth or dare?

Alexis Truth.

Scott Okay... hmmm... Alright-- how many guys have you slept with?

Alexis Six.

Sasha Six?

Alexis That stockbroker I was seeing last month.

Sasha Seeing? You saw him once.

Alexis shrugs.

Alexis Truth or dare?

Scott Truth.

Alexis How many guys have you slept with?

Scott None.

Alexis I mean *girls*.

Scott You said guys, that's your question.

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Alexis Referee?

Sasha Slip of the tongue. Answer the question.

Scott Slept-slept or gotten-it-on slept.

Alexis Slept-slept.

Scott Four.

Alexis Really? Less than me.

Scott Well, you're a whore. Truth or dare?

Alexis Truth.

Scott Have you ever kissed a girl?

Alexis and Sasha look at each other a second, then crack up laughing.

Scott What? Wait, that was *her*?

Sasha shrugs "mea culpa."

Scott So we've been hanging out all this time with the girl you used to make out with in the eighth grade and you never told me?

Sasha I told you it was with my friend Alex.

Scott Yeah, but that was before I knew her.

Alexis We were just practicing for the boys.

Scott Well, thank you, then. You did good. God, that's fucked up.

Alexis Truth or dare?

Scott No, I'm not done with this yet. I mean, do you guys want to...? I mean, I'd like to see it.

Sasha After a few more drinks, maybe.

Scott But you see, that's fucked up. If you're ... I mean, you've kissed all of us. And that's hardly fair. I think if you're going to kiss all of us, all of us should kiss all of us.

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Sasha Yeah, well, maybe when we have that threesome with her that you're always talking about.

Scott Shit. I can't believe you just said that.

Alexis He talks about having a threesome with me?

Sasha And every other reasonably attractive girl we know. Don't be so flattered.

Scott *(to Alexis)* I think it's your turn to ask me.

Alexis Truth or dare?

Scott Dare.

Alexis Drop your pants down to your ankles and play the rest of the game that way.

Scott drops his pants to his ankles and sits back down.

Scott Alright, truth or dare and no more of this truth shit 'cause I want to see your tits.

Alexis *(almost daring him)* Dare.

Scott Let's see 'em.

Alexis freezes for a second, then quickly flashed him.

Alexis Happy?

Scott Thrilled. Not as thrilled as Tay, having kissed everyone--

Sasha Don't worry about it-- she isn't that good a kisser.

Scott I'd bet. I'm just saying--

Alexis Truth or dare?

Scott I'm just saying--

Alexis Truth or dare?

Scott Dare.

Alexis *(without missing a beat)* Kiss me.

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Scott What?

Alexis Fucking kiss me. Then everyone kisses everyone and you can stop bitching.

Scott looks to Sasha. Sasha signals him, "go ahead."

Scott Really?

Alexis leans in and kisses him, then pulls away.

Alexis Thrilled?

Scott I was supposed to kiss you.

Scott leans in and kisses Alexis somewhat tentatively, but it quickly becomes more real than any of them had bargained for. Alexis pulls away. There is an uncomfortable moment in the room. Scott is suddenly less jocular than he had been before-- something in him is reeling.

Sasha Alright, I'm thinking a little more truth and a little less da--

Scott How many men have--

Alexis You didn't ask me--

Scott Truth or dare?

Alexis Truth.

Scott How many men have you been in love with? In your life.

Alexis God. Counting the ones I thought I was in love with... a few dozen. For real? Maybe two. Maybe none.

Sasha Hmmm.

Alexis Indeed. Truth or dare?

Scott Truth.

Alexis How many women have you been in love with?

Scott Two.

Sasha is a little struck by his answer. There is a beat.

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Scott Truth or dare?

Alexis Ah... let's see.

Sasha Two?

Alexis What?

Sasha *(to Alexis)* No. I'm sorry. *(to Scott)* Two?

Scott Yeah.

Sasha And two is...?

Scott *(pointing to the girls, casually)* One, two. I love you. Both.

Sasha *(relieved)* Oh.

Alexis The question wasn't "who do you love?" "Who are you *in love with?*"

The girls look at Scott. He doesn't say anything, but his face and body cry "mea culpa."

Scott Truth or dare?

Alexis I think I'm done with this. For tonight.

Sasha I think we had better head home. It's late.

Scott C'mon. There's another forty in the fridge. We can split it.

Sasha I think we need to go, Scott.

Scott Ah, Sash--

Sasha *Now, Scott.* I really think we really need to go right now.

No one moves for a moment. Then Sasha grabs her coat and heads for the door. She tries to remain casual.

Sasha 'Night, Alex. Thanks for... everything. Wake me up when you get home, Scotty.

Alexis Sash, wait. It's not safe--

Sasha is gone.

Scott Katzy, I just--

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Alexis Go after her.

Scott rises, pulling his jeans back up as he crosses to Alexis.

Scott I'll catch up to her.

Alexis Go the fuck after her. It isn't safe this late at night.

Scott Yeah, yeah, look, first, I just have wanted to say that--

Alexis Go, Scott.

Scott I know, I know. It's just, this isn't the way I wanted to tell you. I--

Alexis I can't believe you did that.

Scott But I love you and--

Alexis Go after your girlfriend.

Scott Yeah, but I just want to tell you--

Alexis You don't say something like that and let her go--

Scott You asked me!

Alexis Go.

Scott I had to tell the truth!

Alexis Go!

Scott I had to tell the truth! Those are the rules!

Alexis Go the fuck after her! Understand? I am not going to-- Just go.

Alexis reels off into her room and slams the door.

Scott *(in a dizzying wail)* Those are the rules! I had to tell...

Lights snap down to a single spot, which Scott staggers into.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. *(Scott turns to the audience)* I take it back. *(Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott)* One year later. St. Mark's Hospital.

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The lights fade to black, then rise on...

Scene 4

A Hospital Room, one year later, in a universe where the previous scenes never occurred.

Scott lies bandaged in a hospital bed. Alexis stands with him. Alexis holds his hand as he sleeps. She is obviously choked up. After a moment, Sasha rushes in.

Sasha Oh my God!

Alexis Shhh! He's sleeping.

Sasha Is he alright?

Alexis Yeah. He's going to be okay. He broke his arm and two ribs. But the doctor says he'll be okay.

Sasha Thank God. Thank you for coming down here. I'm sure he was glad to have you.

A beat.

Alexis Listen, Sasha...

Sasha Yes?

Alexis Um... I've got to get some air. I'll be back.

Alexis gently puts Scott's hand down and exits. Sasha picks his hand up and begins to stroke it lovingly. After a moment she whispers...

Sasha Scott? Scotty? Are you awake?

Scott begins to stir he opens his eyes half-way.

Scott Yeah... I-- *(he sees Sasha and is surprised)* Hey. What are you doing here? Where is Alex?

Sasha I'm sorry I took so long to get here. I didn't get a message. I don't know what happened.

Scott Oh. I, uh, I think they couldn't get you. Or something. I... I asked them to call Al.

Sasha Hmm. I was at my desk all day. Anyway, I'm here now. *(she kisses him on the forehead)* I was so scared. Thank God you're okay.

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Scott You should see my bike. Not so lucky.

He laughs weakly.

Sasha I love you.

Scott pauses for a moment, then tears up.

Scott I love you, too.

Sasha (*wiping the tears away*) Hey, hey, it's okay. It's alright. You're okay.

Scott I love you.

Sasha I know.

Scott No, I still love you. I, um--

Sasha Shhh, shhh, shhh. Calm down. I still love you, too. A few bruises aren't going to chase me away.

Scott I know. I--

Sasha Have you spoken to your parents?

Scott No, the doctors talked to them, though.

Sasha I should probably call them, let them know I've seen you.

Scott Yeah.

Sasha Do you have their number?

Scott Yeah. I, um-- uh... 895-4058. 617.

Sasha (*jotting it on the palm of her hand*) Alright. I'll be right back.

Sasha turns to go. Just before she reached the door, Scott speaks...

Scott Sash? (*Sasha turns*) I'm sorry.

Sasha crosses to him and gives him a hug.

Sasha Oh, Scotty, don't be sorry. It wasn't your fault. Alex told me the guy blind sided you. It wasn't your fault.

Scott (*in panicked tears*) No, Sash, I'm sorry. I don't-- I'm sorry. I didn't--

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Sasha Shh, it's okay. It's okay.

Scott *(pulling himself together)* I think I did a bad thing.

Sasha What?

Scott I'm sorry.

Sasha Scott? *(he just stares at her)* Are you okay?

Scott just looks at her. After a moment, she rises.

Sasha Alright, I'm going to call your parents. Okay? Think about what you want to say. I love you.

She kisses his hand and heads for the door.

Scott I told Alex I loved her. *(Sasha turns)* I'm sorry.

Sasha slowly crosses to the bed.

Sasha Alright.

Scott I'm sorry.

Sasha Okay.

A beat as Sasha gets her bearings.

Sasha Do you?

Scott Love her? *(Sasha nods)* I don't know. I might.

Sasha Alright.

Scott I don't know. I was in the ambulance and they asked me who to call and I heard myself say her name. And when I saw her walk in, she just-- I just told her. I'm sorry.

Sasha strokes his hair and breathes deeply.

Sasha Mmmm. Alright.

A moment passes as they sit silently, not looking at each other.

Scott I'm sorry.

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Sasha nods. Another moment passes.

Sasha What did she say?

Scott shrugs.

Scott That she loves me. Um, how, she doesn't know. And, ah, that she realized how important I was to her when she got the phone call. Um... And that the three of us should talk.

Sasha Mmmm.

They sit in silence a moment. Alexis appears at the doorway. Sasha sees her and makes a move towards the door.

Sasha I, uh, I'm going to try your parents.

Sasha exits, beginning to break down as she does. As Sasha passes her, Alexis watches her, then gives a pained, tender look to Scott. Alexis then turns and hurries to catch up to her friend.

Scott Alex! Katz?... Sash?

Lights fall to a single spot, into which Scott steps.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. (*Scott turns to the audience*) I take it back. (*Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott*) Seven months later. The Keating Downtown Theater.

The lights fade to black, then rise on...

Scene 5

The house of a small rented theater, seven months later, in a universe where the previous scenes never occurred.

Scott stands comfortably talking to Alexis, who is wearing her coat, has a bag slung over her shoulder, and carries a bundled costume. Sasha stands by distantly in the background. Scott hugs Alexis.

Scott Thank you so much, you were fantastic.

Alexis Thank you. It was an honor to do it. The script was amazing.

Scott (*shruggingly*) Not bad for a first shot, I guess.

Alexis No, really, it meant a lot to me to be part of your first show.

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Scott It meant a lot to me to see you up there.

Alexis checks her watch.

Alexis Aaron's waiting in the lobby with my Mom. I gotta head.

Scott You're going out later, though, right?

Alexis Yup.

Scott See you there. Be sure to find me.

Alexis heads for the door.

Alexis Yeah. See 'ya out Sash.

Sasha Mmm-hmmm.

Scott Katzon. *(Alexis turns)* Thanks. Really.

Alexis We'll talk tonight.

Alexis exits. Scott watches her go, then turns to Sasha.

Scott So, what did you think?

Sasha *(tentatively)* I think... it was good.

A pause.

Scott But?

Sasha But nothing.

Scott No, but something. What is it?

Sasha Nothing. It was good.

Scott eyes Sasha for a moment, then goes and begins to pack up his things. After a moment...

Sasha It just explained a lot. You know.

Scott No I don't know.

Sasha Let's just go.

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Scott No. Talk to me.

Sasha I'm not in a place were I can talk to you right now.

Scott Are you mad?

Sasha No, I'm too humiliated right now to be mad. But give me time.

Scott What? About the play? It was just a play.

Sasha picks up her bag, readying to go.

Sasha You know what, we'll have this conversation. But not right now.

Scott Yes right now. What is up with you?

Sasha This is a really disturbed way to tell somebody something, you know that.

Scott I don't know what you're talking about.

Sasha Please.

Scott I write a play about teaching in the inner city--

Sasha Where the lead character is fucking his girlfriend's best friend.

Scott Is *that* what this is about--

Sasha Don't, Scott. For real.

Scott It was a *play!*

Sasha About a guy named Matt who cheats on his poor, unassuming girlfriend Shana with her best friend Catherine-- (*quoting back a line from the play*) "Kat for short." And Shana just happened to introduce them during their junior year in college at a bar called "The Tinker."

Scott I needed a name. So?

Sasha And Matt and Kat get married and Shana stands by as the maid of honor. Fat fucking chance.

Scott That's not--

Sasha What kind of fucked up male fantasy is that?

Scott That's not--

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Sasha And it's my own fault. I always knew something was up. You going so far out of your way for her. Meeting her every day for your lunch break. But I have just spent the past four years so happy that the two most important people in my life get along so well.

Scott Sash--

Sasha But couldn't you just fucking tell me? Couldn't you? Instead of putting it on a stage and making me watch it. With all my friends. She was up there playing me and everybody here knew it. All of our friends know now, Scott. How can I face them?

Scott Sasha. I swear to you, that's not what this is about. There is nothing going on between Alex and I.

Sasha Everyone in the room tonight saw--

Scott *I swear to you.*

Sasha Then why? What was that? It wasn't just some play about teachers.

Scott It... it just started out as, like, a meditation. An experiment. "What would happen if..."

Sasha If what?

Scott If there were people like us. But the guy fell for the other girl.

Sasha But you haven't.

Scott No. I mean, I'm crazy about Alex, you know that. And, I mean, I guess I've thought about, you know, "under different circumstances." But the circumstances are that I love you and I would never hurt you like that. Ever.

Sasha So you have feelings for her.

Scott She's one of my best friends, Sash. But... yeah, my feelings for her are not entirely platonic. But they haven't been for a long time.

Sasha Great.

Scott No, I mean, I'd never do anything about it. I've resigned myself to it.

Sasha You've resigned yourself to being with me.

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Scott No, that's not what I meant. Shit, this-- I wasn't prepared to have this conversation.

Sasha You should have thought of that before you put on a show about it. You should go. Everybody's waiting.

Scott You're not coming?

Sasha I don't think I can.

Scott Then I won't go.

Sasha You should. *(she starts to exit)* I'll see you at home.

Scott Sasha--

Sasha I need to be alone right now, Scott. Just go.

Scott Can we talk when I get back?

Sasha I think we have to.

Sasha turns to go.

Scott *(trying to make light)* I hope you noticed how guilty Matt was about everything.

Sasha *(sadly ironic)* Yeah, I don't know how big a difference that makes.

Scott I would never. Ever. Ever actually do anything. No matter how I felt.

Sasha Yeah, I don't know how big a difference that makes, either.

Scott Page me when you get home. So I know you're okay.

Sasha Have a good time.

Scott I won't be late.

Sasha nods her head. She exits. A single spot rises on Scott.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. *(Scott turns to the audience)* I take it back. *(Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott)* One year later. Sasha and my apartment.

The lights fade to black, then rise on...

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Scene 6

Scott and Sasha's apartment, one year later, in a universe where the previous scenes never occurred.

Scott sits at a table busily typing away on a laptop. Sasha sits reading. After a moment, Scott looks up.

Scott Hey.

Sasha Hmm?

Scott I love you.

Sasha smiles back at him. Scott goes back to his writing.

Sasha How's it going.

Scott Good. I'm... almost... done with this chapter.

Scott taps a few more keys before punching one final one triumphantly.

Scott Done. *(he scans the screen)* It's pretty good, I think.

Sasha crosses to Scott and begins reading over his shoulder.

Sasha You're happy?

Scott Yeah. *(a beat)* Thank you, by the way.

Sasha For?

Scott Getting me off my ass. I had this kicking around up there for so long.

Sasha *(re: the screen)* I like that.

Scott I know. Doesn't it work?

Sasha I didn't realize that's what you meant when you said--

There is an excited knock at the door.

Sasha Stay. I'll get it.

Sasha crosses to the door. She opens it. Alexis stands in the doorway.

Sasha Lex!

Scott *(lighting up)* Hey Katzy. Pleasant surprise. C'mon in.

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Alexis doesn't move. After a somewhat awkward moment, she dramatically presents her left hand. A diamond ring glistens on her finger.

Sasha Oh my God! *(she hugs Alexis)* Congratulations!

Alexis He just asked me.

Sasha That's unbelievable. Get in here! *(she leads Alexis over to Scott and presents the ring)* Look at that!

Scott Beautiful. Congratulations.

Sasha Come here. Tell me about it.

Sasha sits Alexis down. Scott just stares at his computer screen, listening.

Alexis Well, he came over and we went out for dinner.

Sasha Where?

Alexis Emilia's. And we had a great meal. Veal parmesan. Then we went to Haagen Dazs and he ordered me my favorite-- vanilla ice cream with the little chocolate sprinkles-- and we took it to the park. And we were just walking around enjoying the night and the ice cream and all of a sudden he says, "I love you." And, I don't know, it was the way he said it. Like no one had ever really loved me before in my life. And I said, "I love you, too." And the next thing I know, he's holding up the ring. "Would you consider letting me love you forever?" And we kissed. The softest, most beautiful kiss I have ever had. And he walked me home and when we got to the door, *(she pulls the card from her pocket)* he gave me the most beautiful card I have ever read and the second softest, most beautiful kiss I have ever had.

Alexis hands Sasha the card.

Sasha And?

Alexis And I watched him walk down to his car and drive away. And the second the car was around the corner, I ran my ass over here.

Sasha Congratulations. Are you happy?

Alexis Oh, so.

Sasha I'm so happy for you.

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Alexis So, that's *my* news. Anything new with you?

Sasha Yeah, like something could compare. We got new toner in the copier at work. Does that count? Oh, actually, Scott finished a new chapter today.

Alexis Oh! Let me see, let me see.

Alexis hustled over to Scott. Sasha opens Alexis' card.

Alexis May I?

Scott shrugs.

Sasha There's one line in there...

Alexis Which one?

Sasha You'll know.

Alexis reads over Scott's shoulder as Sasha reads the card.

Sasha *(reading a line in the card)* Mmmm.

Alexis Oh! *(she kisses Scott on the top of his head. re: the screen)* I love that!

Alexis continues reading. After a moment...

Scott *(without looking away from the screen, almost inaudibly)* I love you.

Alexis What?

Scott *(barely more audibly, without looking up)* I love you.

After a beat, Scott turns to look at Alexis. They gaze at each other uncomfortably. Sasha finishes the card.

Sasha That's beautiful. Really. *(she notices the strange atmosphere)* What's going on?

Scott *(keeping his gaze with Alexis, carefully)* I was just saying that I think this may be a little quick. That she should be sure that he's the one before she makes it official. She wouldn't want to become a statistic.

Sasha Don't listen to him, Lex. He couldn't wait to move in, but we've been talking about marriage for two years, but you know. Child of divorce.

There is a stillness in the room. Then...

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Alexis I'm getting married, Scott.

Scott No.

Alexis Scott--

Scott No!

Sasha Scott! *(to Alexis)* I'm sorry.

Alexis I think I'm going to go.

Sasha Okay...

Alexis starts for the door.

Scott *(to Alexis)* Marry me.

Alex/ Sasha What?

Scott *(to Sasha)* I'm sorry. *(to Alexis, trying to seem reasonable)* I love you. Please don't marry Aaron.

A moment of stillness-- no one knows what to do. Until...

Alexis Fuck you.

Alexis turns and exits quickly out the front door. Scott starts after her. As he opens the door...

Sasha Scott!

Scott stops and turns.

Scott I'm sorry. I thought I could keep this up. But... I love her.

He opens his mouth to continue, but there is nothing more to say. He looks away and Heads for the front door. The lights fall except for a single spot in his path. As he steps into it, he stops in his tracks.

Scott That's not what was supposed to happen. *(Scott turns to the audience)* I take it back. *(Sasha and Alexis step into the spot, flanking Scott)* Eight months later. Sasha and my apartment.

The lights fade to black, then rise on...

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Scene 7

Scott and Sasha's apartment, eight months later, in a universe where the previous scenes never occurred.

The mood is somber. Sasha is undressing. A black dress hangs next to her. Scott sits in his boxers and a T-shirt with a black suit laying across his lap, distractedly polishing a pair of black dress shoes. This goes on for a moment. Sasha begins to put on her make-up. She applies lipstick, then turns to Scott holding up the dress in front of her.

Sasha Can I wear this shade with this?

Scott *(noncommittally affirmative)* Mmm.

Sasha goes back to her make-up.

Sasha Make sure that I bring my yearbook. Her mother wants me to say something. I'm nervous. But she's been so good to me, you know. So I thought I'd read the message she wrote me when we graduated from high school. It had this great Thoreau quote about how... I think that'll be nice. Or is it tacky? I don't know. *(she turns and sees that Scott is still polishing his shoes)* We're running a little late, honey.

She returns to her make-up as Scott rises and slowly begins to put on his shirt.

Sasha Poor Aaron. *(she stops and looks at Scott in the mirror for a beat)* I can't even imagine.

A moment passes as Sasha continues dressing.

Sasha You think we should ask him if he still wants his Dylan ticket? And if he knows anyone who wants the other one? Or is that too... Maybe we should just ask around.

Sasha finishes dressing in silence. She checks herself in the mirror, then turns to Scott

Sasha How's that?

Scott is sitting in his boxers, socks, a dress shirt, and a tie. His suit and shoes sit in his lap.

Scott Mmm-hmmm.

Sasha crosses to Scott and strokes his hair.

Sasha I know. *(she gently lifts him from the chair and hands him the pants from his suit)* Now come on.

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Sasha waits until Scott starts dressing, then returns to the mirror. She starts experimenting with accessories. The two continue their dressing in silence for a few moments. Scott still doesn't get very far. Suddenly...

Scott I was in love with her.

Sasha turns to Scott. She says nothing.

Scott I was in love with her.

Sasha (*crossing to a bookshelf*) I should get the yearbook out now. Put it with my purse.

Scott Sash--

Sasha If I forget it, I don't know if I would be able to think of anything to say--

Scott Sasha--

Sasha And I'd just be up there with nothing to say and wouldn't that be embarrassing. (*unable to find it*) Maybe it's in that stack by the door.

Sasha starts to leave. Scott stops her.

Scott I need to know you heard it.

Sasha Put your shoes on.

Scott Sasha, I was in--

Sasha Please, no. Not now. If you have to do that... a few days. Please. I have to find the yearbook.

Scott No. Sash...

Scott goes to a stack of books and pulls out Sasha's high school yearbook. He holds it up.

Scott Here it is. It's right here. (*a beat*) This isn't a bad thing. I promise. I just need you to know.

Sasha Why? Why now?

Scott I just felt, suddenly... like I was... being unfaithful. (*Sasha gives him a quizzical look*) To her. God, I know it sounds. How can I be unfaith--

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Sasha Stop it. I need you. Today. Tomorrow you can say whatever you want. But today I need my boyfriend. To love *me*. So, please...

Sasha signals with her hands "stop it," then turns to leave.

Scott Marry me.

Sasha stops in her tracks, but doesn't turn.

Scott I just needed to say it. And now it all feels right. And, I know what you're thinking, and it's not that. I have always loved you. And I always knew that I would marry you. There was never a choice between you two. It was always you. But I loved her. And if I couldn't tell you that, if I couldn't be that honest, then I didn't deserve you. I'm only sorry it took this long. I always imagined standing on the altar next to you and seeing her standing over your shoulder as your maid of honor. I knew that you wanted her to... And I'm sorry that my taking so long to be honest took that chance away from you.

Sasha turns to him.

Sasha So you earned me with that little admission?

Scott That's not what I--

Sasha Just answer me one question. Why?

Scott *(unsure what she is asking)* I'm sorry...?

Sasha Why did you tell me. Today. For me or for you?

Scott For us. I needed for you to know--

Sasha That's what I thought. That's what I thought.

Scott I needed you to--

Sasha You didn't have to tell me.

Scott You knew?

Sasha Oh, I don't know if I knew. I could have guessed. Or, at least, I'm not completely surprised. But whatever I thought or didn't think was going on for you, I knew two things. I knew that you would never act on it.

Scott Never. I never did a thing.

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Sasha And I knew that you weren't making it my problem. You were dealing with it yourself. But now you just have to get it off your chest, and it lands square on mine.

Scott I'm sorry. I didn't mean that. I thought... I knew that I needed you to know, but I just didn't think--

Sasha Yeah.

Scott But we can work this out. We'll get as much pre-marriage counseling as they--

Sasha Scott. No.

Scott But, we can--

Sasha Scott. No. *(she checks her watch)* I'm supposed to meet Mrs. Katzon in ten minutes.

Sasha heads for the door.

Scott Wait, I'm almost ready. We can talk on the way--

Sasha No, Scott. I think I really need for you to not be there.

Scott What? I can't not--

Sasha Scott, I really need for you not to be there.

A beat.

Scott I love you.

Sasha Mmm. I'm going to move back with my parents. For a while. But, for tonight, could you stay with Sean or someone? I don't want to have to take the train out.

There is no response. Scott is reeling.

Sasha Please.

No response. Sasha turns and heads for the door. Just as she reaches the door, Scott speaks.

Scott Sasha.

Sasha slowly turns, steeling herself.

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Scott The yearbook.

Scott holds the yearbook out. Sasha walks over and takes it gently. They both look at the book exchanging hands-- they can't look at each other.

Sasha I'll say goodbye for you.

Sasha exits. Scott just watches her go, sadly. The lights fall, save a single spot on Scott. He does not turn to the audience.

Scott Four years earlier. The Tinker Tavern.

Lights rise on...

Scene 8

The Tinker Tavern, four years earlier

Sasha bounds back in pulling Alexis by the hand. Scott perks up.

Sasha *(to Alexis)* Here he is! *(to Scott)* Here she is! Scott, this is my best friend in the whole world, Alex, and this is my boyfriend, Scotty.

Scott Hey.

Alexis Nice to meet you.

Sasha You guys are going to love each other.

Scott extends his hand to shake as Sasha hugs him from behind. Alexis takes his hand. As their hands meet, they freeze with Alexis and Scott shaking hands and Sasha hugging Scott from behind. After a beat, the lights snap to black.

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